

jobs and economic growth. Manufacturers, small businesses, trade unions, and industry groups are concerned about the increasing skilled labor shortage. Unfortunately, current law limits the use of eligible savings accounts to help reduce the costs of obtaining advanced technical certifications.

My legislation, the American Workforce Empowerment Act, would allow 529 savings accounts to be used for non-degree technical training certificate programs, tools, and any tests that are required to maintain certifications.

As the American workforce rebounds, we will see increased need for skilled workers to meet rising manufacturing, shipping, and construction demand. These skilled labor positions are good-paying jobs that help provide economic stability for hardworking Americans and are essential to the expansion of our Nation's economy.

CONGRATULATING CAPTAIN JONATHAN TURNBULL

(Mr. BERGMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Captain Jonathan Turnbull on his promotion to major in the United States Army.

Captain Turnbull of Gaylord, Michigan, was deployed in Syria where he worked with local forces and non-governmental organizations to stabilize the area and provide humanitarian assistance.

On January 16, 2019, an ISIS suicide bomber forever changed the course of his life and the life of his brothers. Four Americans were killed on that day, and Jonathan received life-threatening injuries. His courage and bravery on that day and each day since has inspired countless Americans as he recovered and continued his service.

Jonathan is the epitome of an American patriot and embodies the fighting spirit of our Nation's Armed Forces. He has fought for his life and his country and has truly earned this promotion to major.

I speak for the entire First District when I say how proud we are of Jonathan, his service, and his commitment.

I wish him, Samantha, Ian, and baby Scotty all the best in the many years to come.

MOUNT NOTRE DAME GIRLS BASKETBALL

(Mr. WENSTRUP asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mount Notre Dame High School girls basketball team on winning the Ohio High School Athletic Association championship.

Mount Notre Dame captured the Division 1 State championship title after beating Newark in a 2-point double

overtime thriller. This championship was the eighth championship for the Mount Notre Dame basketball program—the most in Ohio school history.

Coach Scott Rogers led his team to a 28-0 record, a number two national ranking, and has won 72 consecutive games.

Among the team's many talented athletes is junior guard KK Bransford who was recently named Ohio's Ms. Basketball.

I commend Coach Scott Rogers and the entire Mount Notre Dame girls basketball team for this historic accomplishment and tradition of excellence.

Congratulations, again, to the Mount Notre Dame players, to Coach Rogers and his staff, and to the Mount Notre Dame faithful.

THE SOUTHERN BORDER

(Mr. GUEST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, since mid-January we have seen a surge of immigrants coming into the country along our southwest border. The numbers are staggering, and the situation along the border continues to deteriorate daily. In March, over 172,000 individuals were encountered by law enforcement, the highest number of monthly encounters in the last 15 years.

Last week, I had the opportunity to visit the border and met with both Federal and State law enforcement officers. We heard repeatedly that recent changes by the Biden administration have driven the overwhelming surge.

Lost in the border conversation is the incredible amount of resources being diverted to try and manage the immigrants we are encountering. This shift in resources is being exploited by drug cartels who continue to use the southwest border as the primary pipeline to bring cocaine, methamphetamine, and fentanyl into the country.

The question can no longer be: Is there a crisis along the border?

But instead it should be: How long will the crisis last, and how bad must the crisis become before the President will act?

THE SOUTHERN BORDER

(Mr. GROTHMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address what I think is the biggest crisis to our sovereignty since I have been here, and that is what is going on at the border.

It is hard to think of something new to say, but I want to point out as we pursue an open borders policy that it greatly increases the power of the Mexican cartels.

Because the Mexican cartels have a monopoly on letting people in this country, I heard a story of two people who weren't part of the cartels trying

to sneak people across. Two of them were skinned alive, and a third one was partially skinned and sent back to say: This is what happens if you try to push people across without going through the cartels.

I want to point out an anecdote of a father and a, perhaps, 7-year-old girl who were murdered for trying to come across without the approval of the cartels.

I would like to address the 70,000 people who died from illegal drugs this year. I was recently at the Milwaukee DEA, and I was told last year 540 people in Milwaukee County died of illegal drug use, and the local agents suspected that all 540 were killed by drugs or ingredients from drugs that came across the Mexican border.

Please, President Biden, do something about the crisis on the border.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

LOCAL GRAMMY WINNER JAMES BLACHLY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Johnstown, Pennsylvania, local, James Blachly, on his 2021 Grammy win.

In April 2018, Blachly and the Johnstown Symphony Orchestra performed the U.S. world premiere of Dame Ethel Smyth's "The Prison." It was this performance that won the 2021 Grammy.

Serving as the music director of the Johnstown Symphony Orchestra and as music director of the Experiential Orchestra, Mr. Blachly is known for his innovative programming which aims to increase audience engagement.

James is an incredibly talented conductor and composer. In 2016, he was the only conductor from the United States invited to participate in the first annual Young Conductors Showcase as part of El Sistema's 40th anniversary celebration, and he was the only U.S. conductor to be invited as Conducting Fellow in Maestra Marin Alsop's final year at the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music.

Congratulations to James and the Johnstown Symphony. Their hard work and dedication have truly paid off.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 20, 2021.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II